



Health, Housing & Community Services Department
Public Health Division
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HEALTH ADVISORY

Measles in San Francisco Bay Area

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Between 03/05/18 and 04/03/18, measles has been confirmed in six (6) unvaccinated patients who are residents of Santa Clara County (5) and Alameda County (1) as well as one (1) additional linked case in Nevada. All cases are linked to an unvaccinated traveler who was exposed in Europe and developed measles after returning to the San Francisco Bay Area. Several local health departments in the Bay Area are conducting contact investigations. Measles is very infectious and airborne transmission can occur in settings with large numbers of people like healthcare facilities, schools, childcare settings, shopping centers, and public transportation. Clinicians should be vigilant in identifying suspected measles, managing these cases to avoid ongoing transmission and ensuring that patients and staff are up-to-date with immunizations.

Clinicians are requested to:

- 1. Consider/suspect measles** in patients with a rash and fever $\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$ (38.3°C) regardless of travel history. Ask about measles vaccination and exposure to known measles cases, international travel, or international visitors in the three weeks prior to illness.
- 2. Prepare your facility for the possibility of patients with measles. When patients call to make appointments, screen them to see if they have a fever and a rash. Before they arrive, please ensure that these patients have no contact with other patients in your facility.** [Post signage](#) that instructs patients with fever and rash to notify staff. Train staff to immediately implement airborne precautions if measles is suspected.
 - Mask and isolate the patient in an airborne isolation room
 - Do not re-use exam room for at least one hour after the patient has left the room
 - Assure airborne precautions at other healthcare facilities if referring the patient
- 3. Report** suspected measles cases **immediately**, while the patient is still in your office, to the Berkeley Communicable Disease Program by phone at 510-981-5292; after hours call 510-981-5911 and ask for the Public Health Officer. **CALL, DO NOT FAX.**
- 4. Test** suspected measles cases in consultation with the Berkeley Communicable Disease Program.
 - Collect a throat swab (for measles PCR) with a Dacron swab and place in Viral Transport Media
 - Collect a urine specimen (for measles PCR) in any container (does not need to be sterile)
 - Draw blood (for measles IgM and IgG) **if and only if** it is already Day 4 or later after rash onset
 - Collecting specimens while the patient is at your facility will prevent delays in confirmation and limit the potential for additional healthcare visits/exposures. Details on specimen collection, storage and shipment can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/ydhh9u85>
 - Please HOLD specimens for testing by public health
- 5. Advise patients with suspected measles to stay home with no visitors** until at least four days after rash onset and/or until cleared by the Berkeley Communicable Disease Program to resume normal activities. Patients should go home by private vehicle, not take public transportation, and should only be accompanied by someone immune to measles.
- 6. Confirm immunity of contacts and *health care staff*** with unknown vaccination status by ordering Measles IgG only. DO NOT order measles IgM testing for asymptomatic individuals, as there is a substantial possibility of a false positive IgM result. *Confirm staff immunity now to avoid staff exclusion from work in the event of an exposure.*
- 7. Vaccinate children and non-immune adults**, unless contraindicated, according to [national guidelines](#).

Additional resources: CDC: www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp

CDPH: www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/measles.aspx

Please distribute to all providers in your practice

Health ALERT: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health ADVISORY: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health UPDATE: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.